

## COAL DEALERS FEAR TO MEET.

Call for a Discussion of  
"Trade Conditions"  
Disregarded.

Wholesale Prices Have Advanced,  
but Retailers Are Bearing  
the Burden.

What Leaders in the Business Say  
of the Pool and Probable Adv-  
ances of the Future.

PROTEST WILL SAVE THE PEOPLE.

Probable Action of the Legislature, and  
Interesting Facts Concerning the Coal  
Carrying Railroads and Their  
Combination.

"Present Trade Conditions" was the subject on which Peter De Witt intended to speak at Fifty-eighth street and Lexington avenue. Mr. De Witt is a retail coal dealer, and the gentlemen invited to hear him are members of the Retail Coal Dealers' Association. Conditions in their trade are seriously affected at present by the organization of a pool by the coal-carrying railroads and a consequent advance of 35 cents per ton in the price of the standard grade of coal.

Mr. De Witt was expected to explain the pool's organization, its bearing on the retail dealers, and then there was to be a discussion. But when President James Morrison rapped for order there were very few retailers present. Mr. De Witt was not present. His absence was unexplained.

The utter failure of the meeting was mysterious. Ordinary meetings of the association are attended by so many members that the hall is filled to overflowing. Last night's meeting was to be extraordinary, and an extraordinary situation was to be discussed.

**THE MYSTERY EXPLAINED.**  
The formation of the coal roads' pool in the last days of January was followed immediately by an advance in the wholesale price of coal. This has not as yet affected the retail price, though it must, inevitably. Before the pool's formation the wholesale price was \$3.30 per ton; it is now \$3.65. Before the pool's formation the retail price was \$5; it is still \$5.

The Journal's exposure of the pool has aroused such a strong public sentiment opposed to the methods adopted for creating false standards of value by diminishing the market's sources of supply that the retail dealers are unwilling to move more rapidly than they are compelled to in the lifting of prices. They have also agreed, at least the leaders have—that the trade will not be benefited at this time by public discussion of the subject, and that the best thing that can be done is to wait and see what action the Legislature will take.

PRESIDENT MORRISON said after the meeting: The trust will doubtless advance

## WHAT THE COAL POOL COSTS NEW YORK.

New York's stock of coal to-day is.....	350,000 tons
New York's average weekly consumption in Winter is.....	135,000 tons
The average price during January was.....	\$3.30 per ton
The price for the eight days of February, during which the Trust has been in existence, was.....	\$3.65 per ton
Increase in the cost of coal consumed in February's eight days over January's prices.....	\$53,999.80
New York's annual consumption is.....	5,000,000 tons
Increase in the cost of the annual coal supply, figured on the increase since February 1.....	\$1,650,000

prices as high as they possibly can. I do not, however, believe that they can put them up very high. Retailers will necessarily be forced to follow the rise, and will ultimately come in for a large share of the public rebuke.

F. W. TAYLOR, one of the editors of the Coal Trade Journal, and a member of the Retail Dealers' Association. The wholesale prices have already gone up, but it is so late in the season that it will be difficult for retailers to hold advanced prices. Part of the loss will have to be borne by the retailers, instead of the public, or, for example, they will not be able to get more than a 25-cent advance where the Trust gets 35 cents. As an effect of the Trust, however, prices will doubtless be higher next Fall.

ROBERT GORDON, an ex-president of the association: I do not think that retailers will advance their prices just at present. We are sorry that the advance has been made, and do not want to put up prices till we are compelled to.

J. S. SMOUGH: I scarcely expect retail prices to go up for perhaps three weeks. The prices for next Fall will be higher, however, will doubtless be materially affected. We are at the mercy of the wholesale men, and our margins are very small at the best.

LOUIS MULLER, an ex-president of the association and a large retailer: We are, from necessity, guided entirely by the action of the wholesale dealer. I do not, however, think that the Trust will be able to advance the price more than 25 cents a ton over the present quotations. The public will not stand it any longer.

MORRIS RHINEHEIM, of Sixth-third street and the East River: The retailers will not advance till they are compelled to. There is no doubt that the wholesalers will try to get prices as high as they can, for they claim to have been mining at a loss, but it would be very ill-advised for retailers to make any change for the present. Coal is a necessity, of the same class as air and water, and the public is sensitive regarding it.

BURNS BROTHERS, at the foot of Delancey street: The Trust is a cast-iron one, such as has never been formed before. It will stand up all the coal in the city at least 25 cents a ton within a week. The wholesale advance is already 35 cents.

**POSSIBLE SOFT COAL COMPETITION.**  
One of the largest users of coal in the city is the New York Steam Company, but Mr. Horace C. Andrews, the president, thinks that the pool will not affect his concern. He said:



Attorney-General Theodore D. Hancock.

Upon this official may devolve the task of prosecuting the persons and corporations which are concerned in the pool of the railroads which is limiting New York's supply of coal and increasing, unwarrantably, the price of coal.

capacity of production of bituminous coal is twice as much as the market will take. Many of the largest users will turn to that instead of anthracite should the trust continue. Ninety-nine per cent of the world's coal is bituminous, and I think that the eventual safety of the public lies in the impossibility of a bituminous trust. There are some other concerns that, like this, have made contracts for future delivery, but I do not think that, in all, such contracts represent as much as even 5 per cent of the coal consumed.

## IN THE COMBINE.

Companies Controlled by  
the Pooled Coal  
Railroads.

One of the answers of the coal combine to the argument that it is a monopoly, amenable to the Anti-Trust laws of New York State, as well as to the Federal Government, is that the combination is simply an agreement between Pennsylvania producers—not between the trans-

Year.	Tons.
1820.....	365
1830.....	864,379
1840.....	8,513,123
1850.....	16,182,472
1860.....	23,487,242
1870.....	31,623,530
1880.....	35,385,173
1890.....	43,989,538
1900.....	46,590,000

From this it will be seen that the increase in output has been gradual and that it is not necessary to restrict it. The combine must, therefore, have been made simply to prevent competition.

**A SECRET COMPACT.**  
The restriction in output is for the purpose of creating an artificial demand, and extreme to which the combine seems willing to go is apparent from the fact that it restricted the output for February to 2,500,000 tons in comparison with an output of 3,139,246 tons in February of 1895.

In Wall Street it is reported that a secret agreement has been made between the railroads to reduce the February production still more in order that coal may on hand may be marketed. If this is done it will be a cold weather in March, the combine would reap a rich harvest. The prospects which the companies see in the future are made clear by the following announcement from the Coal Trade Journal:

RAILROADS.	SUBORDINATE COMPANIES.
Delaware, Lackawanna & Western R. R. (No sub-companies).	
Delaware & Hudson Canal Co.	Northern Coal & Iron Co.
Erie & Wyoming Valley Railroad, owned by Erie Railroad.	Pennsylvania Coal Co.
New York, Ontario & Western Railway.	Midvale Coal & Iron Co.
New York, Susquehanna & Western R. R.	New York & Scranton Coal Co.
Wilkesbarre and Eastern R. R.	New York, Susquehanna & Western Coal Co.
Delaware, Susquehanna & Schuylkill R. R.	New York & Wilkesbarre Coal Co.
Pennsylvania Railroad.	owned by Cox Brothers & Co.
	Mineral Railroad & Mining Co.
	Susquehanna Coal Co.
	Lykens Valley Coal Co.
	Summit Branch R. R. Co.
	Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co.
	Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal Co.
	Lehigh Valley Coal Co.
	New York & Middle Coal Field Railroad & Coal Co.
	Locust Mountain Coal & Iron Co.
	Coal Ridge Improvement & Coal Co.
	Delano Land Co.
	Phila. & Reading Coal & Iron Co.
	Locust Mountain Coal Co.
	Little Schuylkill Nar. R. R. & Coal Co.

Ever since 1874 the transportation lines have been gobbling up independent producers and a majority of the companies not now actually controlled by the railroads are under their influence. The few independent operators make contracts with the railroads over which they ship, the arrangement being that the railroads take the coal to market and pay the owner 60 per cent of the delivered price, retaining the 40 per cent for freight expenses. This is particularly advantageous to the railroads for the reason that the delivered price is always the lowest and carries the risk of profits of selling along their lines at an advance.

The percentage basis was a set scheme of A. A. McLeod, and is so favorable to the railroads that even Mr. McLeod's old enemy, J. Pierpont Morgan, is in favor of retaining it.

**MORTGAGES AND LEASES.**  
Another condition that makes independent operating almost impossible is that the railroads have so pulled the wires as to get mortgages on mines not actually controlled by them. They hold leases on the larger portion of the coal lands. On old leases owners of the coal receive but from 10 to 20 cents per ton royalty on large sizes and nothing for chestnut and smaller. On more recent leases the royalties are about

articles about the monster monopoly, and the enormous profits to be made, but they fail to say anything about the equally large losses this monopoly has sustained the past year.

Demand for anthracite has been limited owing to the weather. The coal is not in demand, and the uncertainty as to what action would be taken at the meeting of the presidents of the coal-carrying companies last week. Not a single ton of little coal was bought, the yards have stock enough to keep them going for a couple of weeks.

## ACTION AT ALBANY

Attorney-General Will Be  
Called Upon to Report  
on His Powers.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 7.—It is expected that some decision will be reached by the Senate on Monday night, when the debated anti-Coal Trust resolutions are debated. There are now three propositions before the Senate—one by Senator Cantor, providing that the Attorney-General shall report to the Legislature as to whether the present Anti-Trust law is sufficiently broad, or if amendments and additional penalties should be added; second, by Assemblyman Robbins, providing that the Attorney-General shall investigate the charges, and if he has at present no authority to do so, to report that fact to the Legislature, with

## IVORY SOAP IT FLOATS

At all grocery stores two sizes of Ivory Soap are sold; one that costs five cents a cake, and a larger size. The larger cake is the more convenient and economical for laundry and general household use. If your Grocer is out of it, insist on his getting it for you.

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a suggestion as to the character of the legislation needed to make it possible for him to conduct an investigation; the third, by Senator Wray, provides for an investigating committee of seven Senators.

It is likely that the Robbins resolution will be adopted by the Senate. It is in line with Senator Cantor's resolution, and the Republicans favor it because of the fact that the appointment of the investigating committee in the past has resulted in public criticism. Senator Cantor has a report by the Attorney-General immediately in the interest of speed. Said Senator Cantor last night:

If the Coal Trust is broken up by legislative action the citizens of New York State can thank the Journal. I think it is a very good chance to secure the destruction of the Morgan combination. It all rests with the Republicans. If they act promptly the desired result can be achieved, and I can see no reason why they should not. The State's interests are the servants of the people, and the people do not approve of the stalling of the production of coal, and the increasing cost of its transportation to raise the price to the consumers. I have pointed out a way in which speed action can be secured. If the Attorney-General reports that he cannot investigate it we can amend the Anti-Trust law so that the Attorney-General shall have authority. It is the Republicans' show of spirit, matters can be brought to a focus in a week or ten days. The appointment of a legislative committee of four would result in the carrying of the matter over until the next session of the Legislature.

It is understood that the Democrats in the Assembly and those in the Senate will agree on some general plan in their crusade against the organized opposition, and that they are at variance as to the best method to be pursued in the determination of the matter.

## SPAIN TO BE THEIR PREY.

As Soon as Cubans Are Recognized as Belligerents Letters of Marque Will Be Given.

Senor Gonzalez, of the Cuban Junta, admitted yesterday that the Cubans, as soon as they were recognized as belligerents, intended to send letters of marque to several shipping firms, inviting them to fit out privateers to prey upon the Spanish coasting trade. As an inducement to the carrying of valuable land in Cuba will be granted.

This is the first admission on the part of the Cubans that it is their intention to operate with a syndicate of shipping men, sugar merchants, shipbrokers, and, incidentally, filibusters, which is reported on good authority to have been formed for the purpose of helping the insurgents to secure independence of Cuba.

Comprised in this syndicate are several dealers in precious lumbars. In the eastern part of Cuba are valuable forests of mahogany and cedar, which find a ready market in the United States, and ebony and other timbers, which bring good prices in England. Large concessions of these forests, it is said, have been promised to this syndicate, for which a well-known firm of brokers in New York is acting as sub-agent. This firm has already bought several steamers—five of them, it is said, which are to be used for trading purposes, but are really intended for the syndicate, and has options on several more, while the syndicate is waiting for an act of Congress on the resolution of the Committee on Foreign Affairs regarding the recognition of the insurgents as belligerents.

The name of the mysterious Neptuno, Ramirez's shipyard, in Perth Amboy, will be changed in a couple of days to that of Cordova. Although she is now a sailing vessel, she is now being fitted out for the purpose of being used for trading purposes, but are really intended for the syndicate, and has options on several more, while the syndicate is waiting for an act of Congress on the resolution of the Committee on Foreign Affairs regarding the recognition of the insurgents as belligerents.

## CAPTAINS GRIP THE PEN.

They Tell What They Know of State Laws, City Ordinances and Military Tactics.

The police captains who are seeking promotion to the rank of inspector were put through a course of questions at the examination in Police Headquarters yesterday. When the list of questions was made public later in the day, it was discovered that they were not more difficult than those submitted to the respondents who recently were examined for places as sergeants. There were five questions on the laws of the city, five on city ordinances and five on military tactics.

Only five captains put in an appearance. They were Capt. Wm. W. Fortright, Captain Nicholas Brooks, Captain John McCullagh, Captain Donald Grant and Captain Anthony Albright. Captains Pickett, Smith and Thompson were scheduled for examination, but declined at almost the last moment to enter the race. Just why they withdrew is not apparent. Captain Pickett gives health as an excuse, and says he is satisfied with his present berth. Captains Thompson and Smith also said they are content to remain captains. It was said around Headquarters yesterday that Pickett, Smith and Thompson had received a "tip" that they had no chance for promotion.

The five men who contended yesterday are pretty certain of being promoted. There are five vacant inspector positions. All are veterans and are entitled to the preference, but the present acting inspectors, Captains Brooks, McCullagh and Fortright, will be the first to be appointed. The Commissioners select a deputy chief from among the inspectors an additional vacancy will be made.

The result of the examinations yesterday will be announced in a few days.

## Court Says Seery Was Negligent.

The discharge of Peter Seery, inspector of the Bureau of Combustibles, by the Fire Commissioners, was affirmed by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday, without costs. In the appeal, the Seery's attorney did not deny the charges, which were that his client issued permits for the sale of fireworks in certain portions of the city, and that he was negligent in this respect, and that there was nothing in the case to warrant the court in disturbing the conclusion of the Commissioners.

**Suspicious Persons Held in Court.**  
Central office Detective Brown, of the Police Department, yesterday arraigned in the Central Court Frances Betsche, a good-looking young woman, twenty-four years old, who gave her address as Chicago, and Charles Ford, twenty years old, of the same city. The detectives refused to give any information as to the prisoners, further than that they were arrested as suspicious persons. Both prisoners were remanded by Magistrate Cornell until this morning.

**Janitor Killed by a Fall.**  
Patrick Moran, fifty years old, janitor of the No. 280 St. Nicholas avenue, while at work on the roof yesterday afternoon, fell to the street and was instantly killed. His body was taken to the West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street Station by a Manhattan Hospital ambulance.

Don't be without it; O'Brien's, Bonnet and Honey for coughs and colds. Sold everywhere.

## SPAIN'S POWERFUL LOBBY IN WASHINGTON.

Much Influence at Work to Prevent the Recognition of Cuban Belligerency.

No Doubt That There Is a Cuban Traitor in the Spanish Embassy.

## A SPY VISITS THE JUNTA.

Senator Call Expects to Get the Cuban Resolution up in the Senate on Monday and Is Certain That It Will Pass.

By Julius Chambers.  
Washington, Feb. 7.—A member of the Spanish Legation visited the Cuban Junta in this city surreptitiously last night. Minister Depuy De Lome probably will learn of this for the first time when he reads it in the Journal.

The Spanish Minister is in the habit of seeing all the newspaper men in this city through his butler. He transmits the alleged cables he is supposed to receive through him, and in this way avoids a direct interview.

That there is a traitor in the Spanish Embassy here there can be no doubt. The Cubans in Washington refuse to deny or affirm the fact. There are several Cuban-born members of the Spanish Legation, and it is stated that one of them had the temerity to once express his sympathy for the Cubans, and was promptly rebuked by one of his fellow-diplomats.

While there may be a Benedict Arnold in the Spanish Legation, it is understood that the Secretary of State John W. Foster is using all of his powerful influence upon Congress to prevent recognition of any kind. It is said that he is working under a retainer in the interests of Americans who hold large and valuable concessions from the Spanish Government in the island, and also that he is putting his best work to the front in behalf of the Spanish Government.

Spain has a powerful lobby here. Representative Berlie Adams, of Pennsylvania, seems to be acting in conjunction with Spanish sympathizers. He is opposing the recognition of belligerent rights for the Cubans. He is a warm friend of John L. Webb, of Philadelphia, a railroad man and sugar importer, who is likewise opposed to it on account of business reasons. That Mr. Adams is acting according to his belief, was demonstrated in the Committee on Foreign Affairs yesterday when the Cuban question was discussed and a determined effort made to get it reported, which Adams opposed.

Spain has also invaded the precincts of the Bureau of American Republics, and from it has selected Jose L. Rodriguez, a Spanish translator, to succeed Mallet Prevost, who was appointed Secretary of the Venezuelan Commission, to represent it in Norfolk in the steamer Veazey matter. The Veazey question has been giving the Spanish Minister and his superiors a great deal of trouble lately, as they think it is another dilatory.

Rodriguez is a naturalized American citizen, but he leaves his post in the Bureau of American Republics and goes to Norfolk to look after the interests of the Spanish Government. He may be on leave, but it is certainly a strange commentary that a citizen of the United States and an employee of this Government should be looking after the interests of Spain.

Senator Call, of Florida, said to-day that he expected to be able to get the Cuban resolution up in the Senate on Monday, and that he had no doubt of its passing. Representative Sulzer, of New York, will also make a determined effort to ascertain what progress the House Committee on Foreign Affairs has made in regard to the resolution submitted to them so many days ago. Next week has been selected as the time by Mr. Sulzer, and it is his intention to get some assurance on the subject if possible.

The cost of the Cuban war to Spain has

## THE HIGHEST GRADE CHAMPAGNE

\$25. 90 A BASKET.

## PIPER HENDRICK-SEC.

FOR SALE BY  
ALL GROCERS AND WINE MERCHANTS.

TO-DAY, Sun rose 7:02; sets 5:25. Moon rises 3:47 a. m.—Morning and night use liquid.

Small Sample Bottle Free by mail if you mention this publication. Address the Proprietors of Sozodont, Hall & Kuckel, Wholesale Drugists, New York.

Sozodont Powder twice a week. A box of Powder free with every bottle.

YOU GET the benefit of 20 years' experience treating Pimples, Acne, Blotches, itching skin diseases if you go to JOHN H. WOODBURY, 127 W. 42d st., N. Y.

already been fabulous, and the supply of money has about been exhausted. Since last March the Spanish Government has taken out of the Bank of Spain \$3,400,000, a loan from the Bank of Spain of \$31,500,000, sale of bonds of the Cuba 1886 and 1890, \$7,000,000; loan by the Bank of Paris and of the low countries, \$10,000,000, making a total of \$51,900,000 for a little over nine months of war.

It has cost Spain about six millions a month, to conduct the present campaign, and now all payments on the island are three months overdue. The question that financiers are now asking is, Where will Spain get the money to carry on the fight? She has a \$5,000,000 loan pending with the Bank of France, and until February 15 it will not be known whether she is to get that money or not. This constitutes all the resources that the Spanish Government has to carry on the war in Cuba.

Minister Palma, of the Cuban Legation, left to-day for New York, to have a conference with the insurgent sympathizers in that city. He will probably be gone several days.

## IN AN EAGLE'S TALONS.

The Bird Carried a Babe Up Forty Feet, Then Dropped it into a Tree. Not Much Hurt.

Gainesville, Fla., Feb. 7.—This afternoon before the eyes of his mother, Harry, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Morrison, was carried forty feet in the air by a pet eagle and then dropped. The child wandered out to where the eagle makes its home and watches over one young eagle. Soon Mrs. Morrison heard Harry screaming, and rushing out found him in the grasp of the bird. As the mother approached the eagle rose. Then the young eagle began to scream and the mother bird slowly descended. When about forty feet from the ground she dropped the child and it fell, landing in a thick cedar tree. Mrs. Morrison fainted, but her husband, who had just come up, quickly rescued Harry. The boy was bruised by the fall, but no bones were broken and he was soon conscious. Harry's face and body, however, were terribly torn by the eagle's talons. The bird is now for sale.

**Crushed by His Own Cart.**  
Thomas Williams, fifty-five years old, of No. 407 East One Hundred and Fiftieth street, an ash cart driver of the Street Cleaning Department, accidentally fell from his cart yesterday afternoon on the limited and Twenty-fifth street and St. Nicholas avenue. His body rolled under one of the wheels and he died instantly. The body was taken to the West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street Station.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

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The Recent London Success.  
BY GEORGE FLEMING.

WITH TITLE PAGE  
By PATTEN WILSON.

12mo, cloth, gilt top.  
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Two Pretenders to the French Throne.  
The Cleveland Sorosis.  
The Armenian Tragedy.

Four first class, well illustrated articles in progress. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs has made in regard to the resolution submitted to them so many days ago. Next week has been selected as the time by Mr. Sulzer, and it is his intention to get some assurance on the subject if possible.

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"Whether you are a man or a woman, or a woman who wants to be a man—or merely wants a man—it will amuse you, instruct and interest you."—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

**AMUSEMENTS.**  
**HAMMERSTEIN'S OLYMPIA.** Broadway, 14th St. Mat. To-day. 10th. 11th. 12th. 13th. 14th. 15th. 16th. 17th. 18th. 19th. 20th. 21st. 22nd. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st. 1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. 13th. 14th. 15th. 16th. 17th. 18th. 19th. 20th. 21st. 22nd. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st. 1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. 13th. 14th. 15th. 16th. 17th. 18th. 19th. 20th. 21st. 22nd. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th.